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Adm. Stansfield Turner

TURNER SEES DELAY ON MONITORING SITES

Says Iran Bases Can't Be Replaced
Until '84, Angering Senators

By HEDRICK SMITH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 16 — Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, has told the Senate that it will take until 1984 for the United States to restore fully the intelligence capability for monitoring Soviet missile tests and development that was lost with the shut-down of two electronic listening posts in Iran, according to Congressional sources.

The long delay mentioned by Admiral Turner has intensified the controversy in the Senate over American ability to monitor and verify Soviet compliance with an expected accord on strategic arms, which would run until 1985.

A Senate critic of the anticipated arms accord who heard Admiral Turner's testimony said of the intelligence-gathering situation: "From what we've been told, the United States would only be completely back in business one year before the treaty is scheduled to run out."

Earlier, Optimistic Estimates

Previously, the Carter Administration had contended that the United States would have adequate capabilities for verifying an arms accord as soon as such an agreement took effect. Officials had estimated that it would take a maximum of two or three years to replace the facilities in Iran with a combination of satellite, ground and airborne electronic-intelligence systems.

Administration officials pointed out that not all the types of information previously obtained by the Iranian stations

were needed to monitor Soviet compliance with the projected treaty.

In addition to monitoring Soviet missile tests, the Iranian stations kept track of other Soviet weapons developments that would not be covered by the proposed treaty.

What made the Iranian facilities so valuable, especially the mountain base at Kabkan, near the Soviet frontier, is that Kabkan is only 600 miles from the main Soviet missile-test launching site, from which its huge electronic listening devices could pick up test signals and other data unobtainable through other means.

According to Congressional sources, several Senators were upset by Admiral Turner's closed-door testimony last Tuesday before the Senate Intelligence Committee. During that testimony, he revealed the longer-than-anticipated delay in replacing these facilities and reported on the Administration's efforts to hold down the high cost of the replacement systems.

At least two Senate critics of an arms accord, Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, and Senator Jake Garn, Republican of Utah, were said by colleagues to have been so irked that they had later called President Carter to complain.

Senator Garn has also accused the Administration of having deliberately leaked information to The New York Times on April 3 — the date of Admiral Turner's secret briefing to the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee — that it was planning to use a modified version of the U-2 spy plane to help monitor Soviet missile tests.

"I simply cannot object strenuously enough to this use of highly classified data in the effort to sell SALT II to the United States Senate and the American public," Senator Garn said in a letter published April 11 by The Washington Post.

"Not only was top-secret information leaked to the press to serve a political end, but the information that was leaked also left a very distorted and inaccurate picture," Senator Garn went on.

"The Administration is well aware that many senators are convinced that SALT II is not verifiable. The loss of our electronic listening posts in Iran has served only to reinforce this conviction.

"No modified U-2 planes will compensate for the loss of our facilities in Iran. To assert the contrary is to misrepresent the facts."

Administration specialists asserted, however, that neither Admiral Turner nor other officials had meant to suggest that the U-2 alone would replace the Iranian bases.